United Nations ST/IC/2008/12

Secretariat

19 February 2008

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 6 March 2008: "Endangered Species" series and annual collection folders**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 6 March 2008, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered species of fauna. This will be the sixteenth set of stamps in the multi-year "Endangered Species" series, which was launched on 3 March 1993 to highlight the need for the protection of species throughout the world that are in danger of extinction. This year, the endangered species feature a variety of marine life and the stamps were designed by Ms. Suzanne Duranceau (Canada).

Denomination:
New York values — 41 cents

Endangered species:
Arctocephalus pusillus (South African Fur Seal)
Tubastraea coccinea (Orange Cup Coral)
Hippocampus reidi (Longsnout Seahorse)
Eschrichtius robustus (Grey Whale)

2. The issue will consist of three sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of $0.41, SwF 1.00 and €0.65. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species.

(United States equivalents — SwF 1.00: $0.89 and €0.65: $0.96, subject to exchange rate fluctuation)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 6 April 2008.

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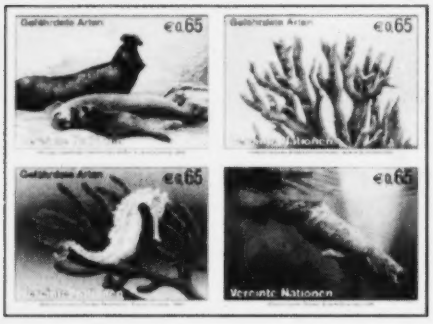
Denomination:
Geneva values — SwF 1.00

Endangered species:
Odobenus rosmarus (Pacific Walrus)
Platygyra daedalea (Brain Coral)
Hippocampus bargibanti (Pygmy Seahorse)
Delphinapterus leucas (Beluga Whale)



Denomination:
Vienna values — €0.65

Endangered species:
Mirounga angustirostris (Northern Elephant Seal)
Millepora alcicornis (Fire Coral)
Hippocampus histrix (Thorny Seahorse)
Physeter catodon (Sperm Whale)

2008 "Endangered Species" annual collection

3. On the same day, the United Nations Postal Administration will release the 2008 "Endangered Species" annual collection folder of single mint stamps.

4. The 2008 annual collection will be contained in a specially designed album. The album devotes separate pages to each of the 12 endangered species. Descriptive information is provided in English, French and German, and each stamp is beautifully highlighted by a colourful array of photographs relative to the species. It should be noted that the "Endangered Species" series will not be included in the annual collection albums to be issued later in 2008.

5. The stamps are not affixed inside the album, although spaces and mounts have been provided for this purpose.

Triple-cancelled "Endangered Species" annual collection folder

6. Since the 2008 "Endangered Species" annual collection folder will contain stamps in all three denominations, special arrangements have been made by UNPA to make available to its collectors the "Endangered Species" collections, in which the stamps will be affixed and cancelled 6 March, the first day of issue in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as appropriate.

7. The policy of offering triple cancellations for the "Endangered Species" annual collection will continue throughout the duration of this series.

Maximum cards

8. The twenty-ninth set of UNPA maximum cards will also be issued on 6 March 2008. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three different se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. To conform to the maximum cards issued for the "Endangered Species" in prior years, each maximum card will reproduce photographs of the species appearing on each of the stamps in the se-tenant block. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue for each respective office. The maximum card cancelled United Nations New York will sell for $2.04. The cancelled United Nations Geneva card is priced at $3.97, while the cancelled United Nations Vienna card is priced at $4.23. Owing to a new uniform pricing structure instituted in 2008 for all three UNPA offices, all three maximum cards are now subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

9. UNPA will sell the plain cards (without stamps affixed) for $0.25.

Special limited silk cover

10. The release of the 2008 "Endangered Species" series stamps will coincide with the Postage Stamp Mega Event being held at Madison Square Garden from 6 to 9 March. To mark this event UNPA has produced a special limited edition silk cover. The $0.41 *Arctocephalus pusillus*, the SwF 1.00 *Hippocampus bargibanti* and the €0.65 *Physeter catodon* will be affixed to these covers and cancelled appropriately. These covers will sell for $3.95 while supplies last.

General information

11. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first day covers on the UNPA official first day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 6 March, at the following locations:

(a) UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) Temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby between the cafeteria and newsstand against the windows: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

13. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.